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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/531,775	04/19/2005	Ingo Hutter	PD020097	6044
24498 7590 05/04/2007 JOSEPH J. LAKS, VICE PRESIDENT THOMSON LICENSING LLC PATENT OPERATIONS PO BOX 5312 PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312			EXAMINER ALI, FARHAD	
			ART UNIT 2109	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/04/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/531,775

Applicant(s)

HUTTER, INGO

Examiner

Farhad Ali

Art Unit

2109

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/3/05
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gandhi et al. (US 7,085,814 B1).

3. With regard to claim 1 Gandhi et al. discloses a method for monitoring audio/video connections hereinafter called AV connections which have been set up in a network of distributed stations which are networked with one another via at least one of a wire-free and a wire bus connection (Column 4, Lines 36-45). Gandhi further discloses a method wherein a station monitored to determine whether the station which is AV connected to it has sent a logging-off message and, if yes, in that this station autonomously ends the setting up of the AV connection with the station which is logged off (Column 46, Lines 53-62).

4. With regard to claim 2 Gandhi et al. discloses a method wherein a station which is AV connected to another station sends a signaling request to the stations in the network in the situation where the AV connection has remained unused for a first specific time, and in that, in the situation where the signaling request remains unanswered by the station which is AV connected to the requesting station, the

Art Unit: 2109

requesting station autonomously internally ends the setting up of the AV connection (Column 27, Lines 8-25).

5. With regard to claim 3, it is similarly rejected according to claim 2.
6. With regard to claim 5, Gandhi et al. discloses at least one of audio and video data transmitted via the AV connection (Column 4, Lines 36-45).
7. With regard to claim 6, Gandhi et al. discloses data transmissions in the network carried out in accordance with the rules of the UPnP Standard (Column 3, Lines 58-67).
8. With regard to claim 7, it is similarly rejected according to claim 1.
9. With regard to claim 8, it is similarly rejected according to claim 2.
10. With regard to claim 9, it is similarly rejected according to claim 2.
11. With regard to claim 11, it is similarly rejected according to claim 6.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 4 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandhi et al. (US 7,085,814 B1) in view of Rozenfeld et al. (US 7,191,239 B2).

14. With regard to claim 4 Gandhi et al. discloses a method wherein a station which is AV connected to another station sends a signaling request to the stations in the network in the situation where the AV connection has remained unused for a first specific time, and in that, in the situation where the signaling request remains unanswered by the station which is AV connected to the requesting station, the requesting station autonomously internally ends the setting up of the AV connection (Column 27, Lines 8-25).

Gandhi et al. does not disclose a method for a checking station to internally end the setting up of the existing AV connection in the situation in which it is found that the other station on the AV connection which has been set up is still registered in the network and has remained unused for a second specific time.

Rozenfeld et al. discloses a method for terminating a connection that is considered idle based on a predetermined set time and level of inactivity (Column 9, Lines 60-67 & Column 10, Lines 1-4).

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the station disclosed by Gandhi et al. to check whether another station AV connected to it has been unused for a second specific amount of time. It is obvious to combine these two inventions, as it would help reduce unnecessarily dropped connections and overall network congestion.

15. With regard to claim 10, it is similarly rejected according to claim 4.

Art Unit: 2109

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Farhad Ali whose telephone number is (571) 270-1920. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 7:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey C. Pwu can be reached on (571) 272-6798. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

F.A. 04/27/2007



JEFFREY PWU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER